

TINODES DIVES (PICTET): A CADDISFLY NEW TO
IRELAND FROM BEN BULBEN, CO. SLIGO

By J. P. O'CONNOR* and J. A. GOOD**

Ben Bulben is a flat-topped cliff-walled mountain dominating the northward view from Sligo town in the north-west of Ireland. Its name is also often used to denote the whole of the 600m limestone plateau of which it forms the western projection. The rock still preserves its original horizontal bedding and as a consequence of this, weathering has resulted in vertical walls of great height. The top is undulating, largely covered by peat and it is exposed and bare (Praeger, 1950). Since its variety of upland habitats support the best-developed high level communities in this country, the area has been classified as one of international scientific importance. It is renowned for its rich flora which includes many alpine and arctic-alpine species on the cliffs, two of which occur nowhere else in Ireland. These are the sandwort (*Arenaria ciliata* L.) and the saxifrage (*Saxifraga nivalis* L.). It is also rich in bryophytes and has a little known but potentially interesting range of invertebrates (An Foras Forbartha, 1981). It is possible that the area provided nunatak refuges for northern plants at times of ice advance during the last Ice Age (Mitchell, 1976).

On August 30th 1983, one of us (J.A.G.) made an entomological collecting trip to Ben Bulben. The mountain was approached from the north *via* the Clough valley; this route appearing to provide the easiest mode of access. Several caddisflies were collected at an altitude of approx. 245m in the upper part of the valley (Irish grid reference G 737468). The specimens were swept from a lush bank mainly of grasses with some *Juncus* beside a swift-flowing stream having a stone and gravel bed. The site was some 90m from the base of a waterfall, over 90m high, which arose from a spring at the base of limestone cliffs. The waterfall, running over stepped limestone, provided hygropetric zones where seepages flowed in thin films over the vertical rock faces.

The collection was submitted to J.P.O'C. for identification. The material included a male of *Tinodes dives* (Pictet), a species new to Ireland. Dr. P. C. Barnard (British Museum (Natural History)) has kindly confirmed this determination. The following Trichoptera were also taken with *T. dives*:— *Agapetus fuscipes* Curtis, *Drusus annulatus* (Stephens) and *Silo pallipes* (Fabr.). The last two species are new to Co. Sligo.

In Great Britain, *T. dives* has been described as rather local in distribution, frequenting streams, springs, waterfalls and running

*National Museum of Ireland, Dublin 2.

**Department of Zoology, University College, Lee Maltings, Prospect Row, Cork.

ditches in alpine and subalpine districts (Mosely, 1939). In the uplands of South Wales, it occupies the moorland head-waters and gives way to *T. rostocki* McLachlan (a species still unknown in Ireland) in the lower wooded valleys. This distribution would agree with Mosely's description of it being an alpine and subalpine species (Edington and Hildrew, 1981). The species is therefore a most interesting addition to the Irish fauna. It is notable that it was found in an area renowned for alpine and arctic-alpine plants. Undoubtedly the insect fauna of Ben Bulbin warrants further study by entomologists.

Commenting on the Welsh distribution of *T. dives*, Jenkins (1977) points out that the lack of records there is possibly due to the very infrequent sampling of moorland water-courses. Such an argument also applies to Ireland. It is to be expected therefore that the species will be discovered in other areas of this country. The most suitable districts would appear to be those already known to contain alpine plants.

The Ben Bulbin Trichoptera, including *T. dives*, have been deposited in the National Museum of Ireland.

Acknowledgement

We are very grateful to Dr. P. C. Barnard for confirming the identification of *T. dives*.

References

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A POSSIBLE THIRD GENERATION SPECIMEN OF CACOECIMORPHA PRONUBANA HBN. – On the 2 November 1983 I took a perfect but rather small (wing expanse 12mm) specimen of this Tortricid, which had been attracted to the m.v. trap here in my garden. My first *C. pronubana* in 1983 occurred on the 23 April. – P. A. CROSS, 3 Meadow Road, Burpham, Guildford Surrey GU4 7LW.